



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to FM's, JANUARY 18, 1961

1960 HUNTING-FISHING ECONOMIC SURVEY BEGINS LATE IN JANUARY

Interviewing on the second national survey of hunting and fishing will begin during the latter part of January, the Department of the Interior announced today. The period covered in the survey will be calendar year 1960.

The interviewing phase of the task will continue for about three weeks. Complete results will be available early in autumn, probably in September. Data on the size of the hunting and fishing population may be available late this spring. The work is being done by the Bureau of the Census under an agreement with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service.

This survey is being undertaken, as was the one for 1955, at the request of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners.

It will be financed by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, using funds collected under the Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration Acts. These funds are derived from an excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment, such as shotguns and fishing rods. These funds are distributed to the various States under a formula, based upon law, for use on a matching basis by the States in the restoration of fish and wildlife.

The cost of the survey will be within the portion of these funds specified by law as available for use by the Fish and Wildlife Service in the administration of the program. This means that the cost of the survey will not be charged to general taxes but to the special levy which sportsmen pay through the purchase of the specified sporting equipment.

About 8,000 persons will be interviewed. The Bureau of the Census identified these sportsmen in December by screening the sample used in their monthly survey of the U. S. population. In addition to the customary information gathered in these periodic surveys, the Census Bureau identified the households in which there were one or more individuals 12 years old and older who had hunted or fished in 1960.

The 1955 survey showed that approximately 25 million Americans 12 years old or older had hunted or fished that year. There is reason to believe that there will be a substantial increase in 1960 due to such factors as improved conservation measures of State and Federal agencies, increased opportunities to hunt and fish, increased population, and increased incomes.

The data to be collected regarding the income and occupations of those who hunt and fish should show whether the participants are distributed throughout all occupations or whether there is a predominance of outdoor workers, office workers, or other groups.

Because of the growing importance of marine sport fishing, the 1960 survey will include a comprehensive study of this phase of angling--the first time such a complete study has been made in the United States. Catches of marine game fish by species, area in which they were taken, numbers, weights, and methods used in angling will be determined.

There are about 90,000 miles of tidal shoreline for the 50 States and islands. There are about 220 species of game fish involved, many of which are taken by hook and line for recreation.

Data will be gathered on the number of persons who fish in the surf, in the bays and sounds, in the tidal rivers and in the deep sea. For fresh-water fishermen, data will show the number who fish in man-made ponds, in reservoirs, in natural lakes and ponds, and in the rivers and streams.

Hunters will be classified as to whether they hunted doves, waterfowl, other small game, or big game.

Except for limited data on the number of hunters and fishermen, information on the results of the survey will not be released until the entire job is done and the complete report available for public distribution. The 1955 survey was made available to the public in mid-September 1956 and it is anticipated that the 1960 data will be available at about the same time in 1961.

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